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Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

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SUBJECT: PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES CONVENTION

REFERENCE: BONN 60

1. IN REFTEL DR. SCHROEDER, FGR, CHIEF OF PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES SECTION, REQUESTED INFORMATION RE STEPS TAKEN BY US LEADING TO RATIFICATION OF THE CONVENTION ON PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES.

2. ON JUNE 29, 1971, PRESIDENT NIXON TRANSMITTED THE CONVENTION TO THE US SENATE FOR ITS ADVICE AND CONSENT. AFTER FIRST READING, THE CONVENTION WAS REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS.
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3. CUSTOMARILY, PASSAGE OF IMPLEMENTING LEGISLATION IS NOT REQUIRED AS A CONDITION TO GIVING SENATE APPROVAL. THE SENATE OFTEN GIVES ITS ADVICE AND CONSENT WITH KNOWLEDGE THAT LEGISLATION IS REQUIRED. ON FEBRUARY 4, 1972, THE COMMITTEE HELD HEARINGS, BUT AT THE REQUEST OF THEN SENATOR HAROLD HUGHES, THE CHAIRMAN (FULBRIGHT) DEFERRED FURTHER ACTION ON THE CONVENTION UNTIL THERE HAS BEEN ADEQUATE OPPORTUNITY TO EXAMINE THE IMPLEMENTING LEGISLATION.

4. THE NECESSARY IMPLEMENTING LEGISLATION WAS INTRODUCED IN CONGRESS FEBRUARY, 1972; HOWEVER, THE NINETY-SECOND CONGRESS FAILED TO ACT, AND THE LEGISLATION DISSOLVED WITH ADJOURNMENT. THE LEGISLATION WAS AGAIN INTRODUCED SEPTEMBER 1973, AND SOME PROGRESS WAS MADE IN THE SENATE WHERE HEARINGS WERE HELD DURING THE LATTER PART OF THE NINETY-THIRD SESSION IN 1974. UNFORTUNAELY, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TOOK NO ACTION ON THE LEGISLATION, ALTHOUGH SUPPORT WAS GENERATED BY MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AND INTERSTATE COMMERCE. ALSO, THE SENATE COMMITTEE FAILED TO ADOPT A REPORT PURSUANT TO THE HEARINGS HELD BY SENATOR BAYH'S SUBCOMMITTEE ON JUVENILE DELINQUENCY, ALTHOUGH THERE IS NO REASON TO BELIEVE THE COMMITTEE HAS ANY PROBLEM WITH THE BILL.

5. WE NOW HAVE HIGH HOPES THAT THE LEGISLATION WILL RECEIVE EARLY CONSIDERATION. THERE HAS BEEN MUCH OVEREMPHASIZINGNEGATIVE CONSIDERATIONS BY SOME VOCIFEROUS PERSONS AND ORGANIZATIONS IN THE U.S. HOWEVER, THE ARGUMENTS ARE, IN THE MAIN, ADDRESSED TO PRESENT DOMESTIC LAW AND DISSATISFACTION WITH IT. WE BELIEVE MOST OF THE MISUNDERSTANDINGS AND NON SEQUITURS HAVE BEEN RESOLVED TO EVERYONE'S SATISFACTION.

6. REGARDING DR. SCHROEDER'S IDEA TO INTRODUCE RATIFICATION LEGISLATION PRIOR TO COMPLETION OF ADMINISTRATIVE PREPARATORY MEASURES, WE BELIEVE FRG WILL BE MET BY MANY OF THE SAME ARGUMENTS AGAINST THE CONVENTION WE HAVE DEALT WITH. WHAT DR. SCHROEDER PROPOSES TO DO IS THE CUSTOMARY PROCEDURE IN THE U.S.; BUT THERE WAS SUFFICIENT OPPOSITION TO MAKE RATIFICATION OF THE CONVENTION APPEAR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

CONTROVERSIAL. THEREFORE, THE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS DECIDED THAT CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES WITH MORE TECHNICAL KNOWLEDGE SHOULD FIRST DECIDE SOME OF THE ISSUES.

7. SINCE FRG MAY BE CONFRONTED BY MANY OF THE SAME ARGUMENTS, WE ARE FORWARDING TO THE MISSION A COPY OF THE SENATE HEARINGS ON THE CONVENTION. IF DR. SCHROEDER HAS

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ANY FURTHER QUESTIONS OR WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE COMMENTS,
HE MAY CORRESPOND WITH SHELDON B. VANCE, SENIOR ADVISER
AND COORDINATOR FOR INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS MATTERS,
DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20520. KISSINGER

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